

Congressman Childers Votes to Boost Resources for America's Fire Departments

November 20, 2009

Washington, DC – Congressman Travis Childers (MS-01) voted this week to provide local firefighters with the tools and resources they need to prevent and fight fires, and keep our communities safe. At a time when many North Mississippi towns and cities are facing budget shortfalls and cuts to basic services, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act invests in vital firefighter assistance programs that allow local fire departments to provide training, purchase equipment and vehicles, and hire personnel.

“This bill provides critical funding to safeguard our homes, our neighborhoods, and our families,” said Congressman Childers. “In order to keep our communities safe, our local firefighters must have access to the best training and equipment. Each year, Mississippi benefits from these grants. With county tax revenues down in the face of tough economic times, the rural and volunteer fire departments that are central to North Mississippi communities will especially benefit from this authorization. Our fire departments should never have to choose between adequately trained personnel and functioning equipment, and this bill protects against that.”

The bipartisan legislation authorizes a total of \$2.2 billion a year in grants for local municipalities to upgrade crucial equipment and maintain adequate levels of personnel. It also makes it easier for local fire departments to access these critical funds by lowering matching requirements and modifying time commitments.

The bill has the support of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

*A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit [w
ww.childers.house.gov](http://www.childers.house.gov)*

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